

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EUR-12 /094 W

----- 024074

R 081140Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1711

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: SEP 7 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ABBAS HAMIEH, LEBANESE  
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

1. LEBANESE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAMIEH BELIEVES  
THAT JUNBLATT CAN BE PACIFIED WITH A LITTLE DEFERENTIAL  
ATTENTION AND IS LOOKING FOR A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT OF HIS  
PRESENT PREDICAMENT WITH THE SYRIANS. IF SARKIS FAILS,  
AND THE WAR IS PROLONGED, COMMUNISM WILL GROW IN LEBANON.  
DIPLOMACY-AS-USUAL IN BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON AMBASSADOR ABBAS HAMIEH, CHIEF OF  
PROTOCOL OF FOREIGN OFFICE, SEP 7 IN HIS LAVISHLY-APPOINTED  
(FROM LOUIS XVI TO LATE MOGUL) PRIVATE APARTMENT IN WEST  
BEIRUT. HAMIEH STILL FUNCTIONS AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL,  
PRIMARILY FROM HIS HOME, AND IS IN TOUCH WITH MOST OF THE  
REMAINING DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN WEST BEIRUT.

3. DEALING WITH JUNBLATT. HAMIEH, HIMSELF A CONSERVATIVE  
AND WESLTHY DRUZE, SAID THAT JUNBLATT WAS KIND OF PERSON  
WHO LIKED TO HAVE PEOPLE AROUND HIM AND WAS INFLUENCED  
BY WHOEVER TALKED TO HIM LAST. THE LEBANESE LEFT/  
RADICALS, SUCH AS GEORGE HAWI (LEBANESE COMMUNIST  
PARTY) AND MUHSIN IBRAHIM (COMMUNIST ACTION  
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ORGANIZATION) UNDERSTOOD THIS AND WERE CONSTANTLY AT

JUNBLATT'S SIDE. MODERATE MOSLEM (AND DRUZE) PERSONALITIES HAD ERRED IN IGNORING JUNBLATT. EVEN US DIPLOMATS, HAMIEH SAID, COULD HELP JUNBLATT MODERATE HIS VIEWS, SIMPLY BY GOING AND TALKING TO HIM.

4. JUNBLATT AND THE DRUZES. HAMIEH SAID THAT A GREAT MANY DRUZES ARE DISAFFECTED WITH JUNBLATT. THEY DISDAIN PARTICULARLY HIS LEFTIST FRIENDS AND THE WAY THEY MAKE HIM INACCESSIBLE TO OLDER FRIENDS. THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS A TRADITIONAL DRUZE TRIBAL LEADER.

5. JUNBLATT AND THE SYRIANS. HAMIEH BELIEVES THAT JUNBLATT IS NOW FEELING ISOLATED FROM THE PALESTINIANS AND REALIZES THAT HIS MOBILIZATION CALL HAS BEEN FAILURE. HE IS LOOKING FOR A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT AND WOULD GRASP AT A SYRIAN GESTURE. HAMIEH BELIEVES THAT REAL EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN JUNBLATT AND THE SYRIANS AND THAT THEY MAY SUCCEED.

6. SARKIS; THE RED MENACE; FOREIGN INTERVENTION. HAMIEH SAID MANY LEBANESE POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT ONLY WAY OUT OF THE MESS HERE WAS THROUGH FOREIGN INTERVENTION. HE CONJURED UP IMAGE OF MULTILATERAL WESTERN INTERVENTION FORCE: US, FRANCE, BRITAIN, ITALY, ETC. ALL WARRING LEBANESE PARTIES, HE THOUGHT, WOULD WELCOME SUCH A SALVATION, AS THEY HAD WELCOMED US MARINES IN 1958. SARKIS IS LAST GREAT HOPE. IF HE DOES NOT SUCCEED IN RESTORING PEACE SHORTLY AFTER HIS SEP 23 ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, CONTINUING WARFARE WILL RESULT IN FURTHER RADICALIZATION OF LEBANESE LEFTIST SIDE. ALREADY, HE SAID, STREET GANGS IN WEST BEIRUT WERE INCREASINGLY COMMUNIST-ORIENTED. THE LONGER THE WAR GOES ON THE GREATER THE PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNISM IN LEBANON. LEFTISTS REMAIN CONFIDENT, HE SAID, OF ULTIMATE COMPLETE VICTORY.

7. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR. HAMIEH SAID THAT ORIGINS OF RUMOR THAT RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV WAS BEING "RECALLED" CONFIDENTIAL

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(SITREP SEP 4) WERE A MYSTERY. YESTERDAY (SEP 6) RUSSIAN EMBASSY SENT HIM NOTE INDICATING THAT SOLDATOV WAS VERY SIMPLY GOING ON TWO WEEKS' VACATION AND WOULD BE BACK.

8. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AVOIDS BEING PARTITIONED. HAMIEH SAID HIS OWN POSITION AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WAS UNCONTESTED BY EITHER CHAMOUN AND KARAME. THESE TWO RIVALS, BOTH

CLAIMING THE POSITION OF FOREIGN MINISTER, FOUND IT  
CONVENIENT TO HAVE IN HAMIEH AN UNCONTESTED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF LEBANESE FOREIGN OFFICE WITH WHOM ALL FOREIGN  
EMBASSIES COULD DEAL. DENOUEMENT OF QUESTION OF  
LEBANESE REPRESENTATION AT ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN  
MINISTER'S MEETING IN CAIRO SEP 4 WAS NOT AT ALL  
SURPRISING: NAJIB DAHDAH (SENT BY CHAMOUN) AS  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE, AUTOMATICALLY  
TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER AMBASSADOR SABRA (DESIGNATED BY  
KARAME). SINCE TWO ARE OLD FRIENDS, THEY NATURALLY  
GOT ALONG WELL AT CONFERENCE.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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